

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 AID-05 /100 W

-----079958 261344Z /43

R 261031Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4938

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2472

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SU

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KHARTOUM 2388 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN AFTERMATH NIMEIRI ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE MET WITH SADIQ AL-MAHDI, THERE HAVE BEEN EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FROM LEADERS IN SUDAN, INCLUDING SOME WHO REPRESENT GROUPS WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED OPPOSE MEASURE. AT SAME TIME WE UNDERSTAND OPPOSITION LEADER SHERIF HUSSEIN AL-HINDI HAS BITTERLY DENOUNCED THAW BETWEEN NIMEIRI AND SADIQ. SUDANGOV LEADERS ACKNOWLEDGE OPPOSITION, BUT CLAIM IT EXPECTED COMPARING CURRENT MOVES WITH THOSE MADE TO BRING CIVIL WAR IN SOUTH TO A CLOSE. EMBASSY BELIEVES NIMEIRI DETERMINED TO IMPLEMENT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SADIQ AL-MAHDI SUCCESSFULLY BOTH FOR PATRIOTIC AND PRAGMATIC REASONS AND THAT HE IS CONVINCED HE HAS SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO DO SO. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN WEEK FOLLOWING NIMEIRI'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE MET IN PORT SUDAN WITH SADIQ AL-MAHDI, POLITICAL DISCUSSION IN KHARTOUM CONTINUES TO CENTER ON IMPLICATIONS OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. MEDIA HAVE REPORTED STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM SUCH LEADERS AS JOSEPH LAGO, WHO IS MOST IMPORTANT SOUTHERN MILITARY OFFICER, AND ABUL GASSIM HASHIM, SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S

ASSEMBLY. IN BOTH CASES LEADERS REPRESENT GROUPS WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY OPPOSE ACTION. SOUTHERNERS LIKELY TO BE CONCERNED LEST IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN NIMEIRI AND SADIQ MIGHT DILUTE SUDANGOV'S COMMITMENT TO ADDIS ABABA ACCORDS WHICH ESTABLISH SOUTHERN REGIONAL AUTONOMY. ABUL GASSIM HASHIM IS FROM SAME CLAN AS ABUL GASSIM IBRAHIM, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SSU, WHO IS ALSO CONSIDERED A STRONG OPPONENT OF SADIQ.

2. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS OF REACTIONS AMONG OPPOSITION GROUPS. SHERIF HUSSEIN AL-HINDI HAS REPORTEDLY BITTERLY DENOUNCED NIMEIRI/SADIQ MEETING. ACCORDING TO SECOND HAND REPORT THERE WILL NEVER BE RECONCILIATION

BETWEEN HIM AND NIMEIRI, WHO HE CLAIMS MADE THREE ATTEMPTS ON HIS LIFE. ACCORDING TO SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO NIMEIRI'S ATTEMPT MAKE PEACE WITH SADIQ, PARTICULARLY IN ARMY.

3. MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG, IN COVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS WITH AMBASSADOR JULY 25, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME OPPOSITION EXISTS. HOWEVER, HE COMPARED OPPONENT AND THAT WHICH EXISTED AT TIME NIMEIRI MOVED TO MAKE PEACE WITH SOUTH. DEND SAID NIMEIRI'S EXPERIENCE IN BRINGING PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO CIVIL WAR SERVES AS PRECEDENT AND THAT
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PROBLEM WITH ANSAR IS ANALOGOUS TO THAT WHICH EXISTED WITH THE SOUTH. HE PORTRAYED NIMEIRI AS MAN OF CONSIDERABLE COURAGE IN FACE OF EXPECTED OPPOSITION TO ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SOLUTION WITH ANSAR FOR GOOD OF COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

4. COMMENT: WE THINK NIMEIRI IS DETERMINED TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH SADIQ AL-MAHDI, AND WE THINK HE BELIEVES HE CAN DO SO WITHOUT SACRIFICING INTERESTS OF COUNTRY OR OF MAY REVOLUTION. IN ADDITION TO IDEALISTIC MOTIVES CITED BY DENG, NIMEIRI PROBABLY BELIEVES THESE STEPS NECESSARY SO HE CAN DEVOTE ATTENTION TO MORE SERIOUS FOREIGN SECURITY THREATS AND CRITICAL TASK OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NO DOUBT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS, IF NOT OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION IN THOSE QUARTERS, INCLUDING SOUTH, WHOSE TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION TO SADIQ HAS BEEN STRONGLY HELD. HOWEVER, INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT, ON BALANCE, PUBLIC FAVORS MOVES AND AGREES IN GENERAL WITH NIMEIRI'S REASONING FOR THE NEED TO OVERCOME OPPOSITION OF ANSAR. MOREVOER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ARMY SUPPORTS NIMEIRI ON THIS ISSUE. IN THAT CONNECTION, WE HAVE HEARD FROM SOME SECOND HAND SOURCES NIMEIRI INTENDS TO INTERGRATE ANSAR SOLDIERS INTO

PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES; AS DEPT AWARE, EX-ANYANYA (SOUTHERN)
SOLDIERS WERE INTEGRATED INTO PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES
FOLLOWING CIVILNKWAR. THEREFORE, WHILE SHERIF AL-HINDI,
WHOSE IMPORTANCE AS OPPOSITION LEADER IS SECOND ONLY TO
SADIQ AL-MAHDI'S, PROBABLY DOES CONTINUE TO OPPOSE
NIMEIRI, WE THINK REMARKS RE ARMY ATTRIBUTED TO HIM COULD
WELL BE SELF-SERVING. IN ANY CASE, NIMEIRI PROBABLY NOT
TOO CONCERNED WITH GAINING ALLEGIANCE OF AL-HINDI SINCE
WE THINK ONE OF HIS AIMS IN REACHING AGREEMENT WITH
SADIQ AL-MAHDI IS TO DIVIDE OPPOSITION. BERGUS

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